

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04

NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 021507 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1749

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0750

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: BERLIN AND FRG- SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY: FOR PAST FOUR MONTHS SOVIET EAST BERLIN PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN MAKING CONCERTED EFFORT TO ARRANGE SEPARATE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS WITH WEST BERLIN PRIVATE GROUPS. SENAT CHANCELLERY BELIEVES THIS EFFORT MAY BE DIRECTED AT EXCLUDING BERLIN FROM FRG- SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT, AND WEST BERLIN GROUPS HAVE ACCORDINGLY BEEN ADVISED NOT TO TAKE SOVIET BAIT. END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT HAS PROVIDED MISSION WITH COPY OF REPORT INDICATING THAT SINCE JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, DMITRIEV AND NIKOTIN OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAVE MADE INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ARRANGE SHORT- TERM EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PRIVATE CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND EDUCATIONAL GROUPS IN WEST BERLIN AND APPROPRIATE STATE COMMITTEES AND " ALL- UNION" GROUPS IN SOVIET UNION. WHERE TALKS HAVE REACHED CONCRETE STAGE, SOVIETS

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HAVE SPOKEN OF FIVE- YEAR DURATION FOR SUCH AGREEMENTS. REPORT NOTES THAT FOUR AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONCLUDED, AND THAT MANY OFFERS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN MADE THAT HAVE NOT COME TO ATTENTION OF SENAT. AS CONSEQUENCE OF THIS ACTIVITY, IMPRESSION HAS GAINED GROUND IN SENAT CIRCLES THAT SOVIETS ARE SEEKING TO CREATE LONG- TERM SOVIET- WEST BERLIN CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM THROUGH CONCLUSION OF NUMEROUS PARTICULAR AGREEMENTS, WHICH WOULD OBLIVATE NEED TO INCLUDE BERLIN IN FRG- SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS POSSIBILITY, SENAT CHANCELLERY HAS ADVISED WEST BERLIN GROUPS, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO REFRAIN FROM ENTERING INTO SUCH EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF FRG- SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT. IN RECENT CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL PERSUADED HEAD OF BERLIN CULTURAL SOCIETY " URANIA" NOT TO ACCEDE TO NIKOTIN REQUEST TO ENTER INTO TIES WITH SOVIET SOCIETY " ZNANIYE."

3. COMMENT: ASSUMING FRG- SOVIET CULTURAL AGREEMENT IS DISCUSSED DURING BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN, SOVIETS MAY WELL ARGUE AGAINST INCLUSION OF BERLIN CLAUSE ON GROUNDS THAT COMPLETED OR PROSPECTIVE PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH WEST BERLIN GROUPS MAKE IT UN- NECESSARY. MISSION INFORMED THAT, IN WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE EFFORT TO FORESTALL SUCH A PLOY, HEAD OF SENAT PRESS SECTION STRUVE TOLD FIRST SECRETARY RODIN OF SOVIET EMBASSY RECENTLY THAT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING BERLIN WILL HAVE ALREADY BEEN CLARIFIED SATISFACTORITY PRIOR TO BREZHNEV VISIT. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ ALSO TOOK SIMILAR LINE PUBLICLY IN TWO TV AND RADIO TALKS WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS, IN WHICH HE REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENT THAT BRANDT- BREZHNEV TALKS SHOULD NOT BE " BURDENED" ( BEFRACHTE) BY BERLIN QUESTIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION. KLEIN

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